

Karen Levine -

F.Y.I. Only.

Three times CBC was asked, in advance, to make the new broadcasting centre in Toronto accessible to persons disabled by environmental sensitivities. This would have had the added advantage of reducing the number of people the building would cause to develop this intermittent disability. It would also have greatly increased the comfort level for all workers, including voice performers.

CBC's three responses are attached.

Since CBC refused to make the building accessible to persons with this disability, several people have developed the severe sensitivities in the building, and some people, including someone working for As It Happens, have had to leave work at the Corporation because they cannot work in the building. So much for human rights at the CBC.

CBC journalists and producers, including many with extremely good reputations for concern about human rights issues, continue to refuse to report human rights concerns relating to the ongoing preventable abuse of persons in this disabled group. The difficulties faced by people with this problem have been consistently medicalized with the result of excluding discussion of human rights arguments and concerns. Damages people have experienced have been trivialized as being the mere failure to receive medical treatment, or hurt feelings, when much more serious abuse and damages are being caused on a regular basis.

I ask you to again reconsider CBC's practice of focussing on medical issues relating to this group, and to start discussing human rights violations, including preventable social and psychological abuse of people with sensitivities which has resulted in many suicides. I also urge you to pass on the attached letters to your shop steward and your health and safety committee.

Chris Brown
613-236-7683